

REMARKS

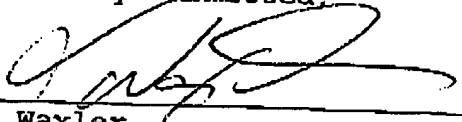
This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 6, 2004. Claims 1-14 and 22-45 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 12, 22, 29, 35, 36, and 44 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 1-14 and 22-45 are allowed.

Claims 15-21 and 46-49 have been cancelled to render the Office Action's § 102 rejections moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the currently-pending claims are clearly patentably distinguishable over the cited and applied references. Accordingly, entry of this amendment, reconsideration of the rejections of the claims over the references cited, and allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. Please charge any additional fees which may now or in the future be required in this application, including extension of time fees and fees for claims added upon amendment, but excluding the issue fee unless explicitly requested to do so, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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